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SOME TYPICAL AMERICAN MARKETS—A SYMPOSIUM

I. THE PURPOSE OF THE SYMPOSIUM

BY CLYDE LYNDON KING, PH.D.

There is everywhere a demand for more definite data as to the results and administrative methods of municipal markets in the United States. It is with the thought of meeting these various demands for information that this symposium is arranged. It is believed that the information in these articles, together with the detailed data given in the questionnaire by Mr. Farley, and the material offered in the other articles on Municipal Markets and Direct Marketing, will cover fully the important problems of municipal markets and the most important results accruing therefrom.

In order that the papers in the symposium might discuss practically the same subjects, the following list of topics was sent to each contributor, who was also asked to include any other data of special interest pertaining to his market.

(1) The character of the market—whether wholesale, terminal, district, waterfront, curbstone, etc.; (2) the charges made for stall and space rentals, and all other expenses that would have to be borne by the licensee; (3) the net profit to the city; (4) the city's regulations as to adulteration, misbranding, weights, measures, food deterioration, sanitary conditions, etc.; (5) the extent to which the city's markets are frequented by bona fide farmers on the one hand, and professional retailers on the other; (6) the regulations and measures taken to encourage farmers to use the markets, including a discussion of existing regulations and practices that discourage direct marketing by farmers, and constructive suggestions as to what steps should be taken; (7) the nature and character of the administration and supervision of the markets by the city's appointed elective officials, including their salary, tenure, qualifications, and the present and proper qualifications for such officials; (8) the nature and character of any publications or bulletins that are issued by the markets; (9) the effect of the market on: (a) producers' prices, (b) consumers' prices, (c) the quality and freshness of the perishable goods offered for sale; (10) the extent to which other foodstuffs are sold at the market; (11) whether or not the city's market policy has had any effect on the output of outlying farming regions or on getting farmers to adapt their products to the city's needs; and (12) constructive measures that should be taken to further the municipal market as an agency for local and direct distribution of foodstuffs and similar goods.